Guide to the North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology Records

RG 225



Juliet Crawford Schwab and Martha Lund Smalley

2010

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library

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CALL NUMBER: RG 225

CREATOR: North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology

TITLE: North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology records

DATES: 1986-2007

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9 linear feet (23 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: These archives document the work of the North American Coalition for

Christianity and Ecology, an ecumenical group that was formed in 1986 to highlight environmental dimensions of the Christian tradition, help Christian individuals and churches become more ecologically responsible, and work with people of other traditions in the common effort to create a more

sustainable global society.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://

hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.225

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.225.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology, 2010

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology Records (RG 225), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biograp	hical /	' Historical
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Date	Event
1985	o Fr. Albert Fritsch of Appalachia Science in the Public Interest, David Haenke of the Ozarks Bioregional Project, and Fred Krueger of the San Francisco-based Eleventh Commandment Fellowship, decided to initiate a Christian Ecological movement in North America
1986 May	$_{\odot}$ An initial planning conference in Syria, Virginia was attended by forty people from various denominations.
1986	$_{\odot}$ Incorporated as the North American Conference on Christianity and Ecology, a nonprofit organization
1987 Aug	$_{\odot}$ First conference held in Indiana was attended by more than 500 people.
1987, 1988	$_{\odot}$ Offices were established in San Francisco and Washington, DC.
1987-1991	o Following a successful conference in 1987, the organization almost immediately experienced power struggles, personality conflicts, and financial disputes between various factions on the Board of Directors. These controversies resulted in the resignations of a number of board members, a lawsuit by former board member John Freda for expenses incurred as secretary, and the founding of the North American Conference for Religion and Ecology by former executive co-director Don Conroy. Financial instability stalled the organization's rapid growth and closed the offices in San Francisco and Washington, DC. With the resignations of many of the first generation of Board members, an austerity budget, and the shift to an entirely volunteer staff, the organization recovered its footing.
1988-1991	 Six regional NACCE conferences were held. In addition to holding regional Earth Day conferences and co-sponsoring Soil and Water Stewardship Week with the National Association of Conservation Districts, NACCE cosponsored an environmental seminar in Russia in 1991.
1989	 Conference: "Survival of the Planet: A Challenge to Faith Communities" (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
1991	$_{\odot}$ The NACCE journal, Firmament, was replaced by its newsletter, $\ \it Earthkeeping\ \it News$
1992	o Established local groups in Illinois and North Carolina.
1993	o Formed a Hospitality Network and Speakers Bureau, organized conferences in four different states, and co-sponsored the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago
1994	 Sponsored collaborative projects and regional coalitions, such as the Christian Youth Ecology conference, which were cosponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Ecumenical Ministries of of Southern California
1996	o Conference: "Discerning the Signs of These Times" (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Date	Event
1996	 Congress of Earthkeeping Ministries, which hosted "town meetings" on four trends affecting churches: eco-feminism, eco-justice, science and cosmology, and alternative economics. As a result of the conference, NACCE focused its efforts on sponsoring local eco-church circles to strengthen faith communities' care for creation.
1998	$_{\odot}$ Changed its name to the North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology, reflecting its shift from conferences to grassroots coalition-building and local ecochurch circles
2001	$_{\odot}$ Conference: "Spirit and Religion in the Ecological Age: Empowering Environmental Work" (Little Rock, Arkansas)
2004	o Conference: "Bringing the Church Back Down to Earth," cosponsored by The Center for Progressive Christianity (St. Paul, Minnesota)

Scope and Contents

This collection thoroughly documents the development and operations of the North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology and provides insight into the Christianity and ecology movement in the United States from 1986 to 2006. The mission statement of the NACCE indicates its areas of interest and activity: "The continuing devastation of Earth is a crisis of the human spirit. To address this crisis: 1) We will invite people into a loving relationship with Earth through the formation of local earthkeeping circles; 2) We will teach reverence for God's creation, with the understanding that humans are embedded in the natural world; 3) We will cooperate with other organizations concerned with ecology and social justice; 4) We will promote the study of ecological issues in the context of biblical theology and contemporary science."

Series I, Organization and Policy Records, contains legal documents related to the incorporation and name changes of NACCE, case files from Freda v. NACCE, by-laws, and other documents related to the founding and activities of the organization.

Series II, Board and Committee Records, contains minutes and other documents from the Board and Executive Committee meetings, lists of Board members from different periods, and correspondence pertaining to the recruiting and resignations of Board members.

Series III, Correspondence of Board Members, contains letters to and from individuals who were members of the Board of Directors.

Series IV, Programs and Conferences, documents programs, conferences, consultations, and workshops produced by NACCE.

Series V, Membership Records, includes membership lists, forms, and correspondence, as well as the organization's mailing lists.

Series VI, Publications and Publicity, contains NACCE's two serial publications, *Firmament* and *Earthkeeping News*, brochures, articles about the organization and its activities, audio and video tapes, photographs, and other documents.

Series VII, Financial Records, contains financial statements, ledgers, tax forms, grant proposals, and other records and correspondence by Board members pertaining to finances.

Series VIII, Collected Material, includes conference material and other documents from related organizations, resources from outside NACCE, and documents relating to individuals both within and outside of the organization.

Arrangement

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- II. Board and Committee Records, 1986-1994
- III. Correspondence of Board Members, 1986-2003
- IV. Programs and Conferences, 1987-2006
- V. Membership Records, 1989-2006
- VI. Publications and Publicity, 1986-2006
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b. 11, f. 148	Toward a New Church Order in Caring for Creation: planning	1990 Oct
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b. 11, f. 150	Sustaining Our Home, Planet Earth	1993 Oct
b. 11, f. 151	Planting the Seeds youth conference	1994 Sep
b. 11, f. 152	Congress of Earthkeeping Ministries: program and participants	1996 Sep
b. 11, f. 153	Congress of Earthkeeping Ministries: ecofeminism town meeting	1996 Sep
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	Publicity	1986-2000
b. 17, f. 203	Articles about NACCE and Christian ecology	1988-1994
b. 17, f. 204	Photographs	1993-2000
b. 17	Audio cassettes (2): Lectures by Gene Marshall I. Spirit, Ecology & Christian Theology II. Fresh Wineskins for the Christian Breakthrough. From NACCE board meeting.	2000 Jan
b. 17	Video cassettes (2, VHS): I. Science and New Cosmology; Christian Ecofeminism II. Ecojustice; Alternative Economics. From Congress of Earthkeeping Ministries.	1996 Sep
b. 17	Video cassette (VHS): Christians for the Earth. Filmed at first NACCE conference.	1987 Aug
b. 17	Video cassettes (2, VHS): I. Talks by John Cobb: Coming Down to Earth; Coming Down to Earth, Part 2. II. Talks by Sallie McFague: Taking Care of the Neighborhood: Some Reflections on Creation; A Call to Action. From Bringing the Church Back Down to Earth.	2004 Jun
b. OV-d4	Art poster	1986

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b. 20, f. 236	People and the Earth	1988 Apr
b. 20, f. 237	Seventh Assembly of the Fourth World	1988 Jul
b. 20, f. 238	Survival of the Planet	1989 Oct
b. 20, f. 239	Ninth Assembly of the Fourth World	1990 Jul
b. 20, f. 240	North American Association for Environmental Education Conference	1991 Sep
b. 20, f. 241	Earth Ethics Forum	1991 Dec
b. 20, f. 242	Earth Stewardship 1992	1992 Feb
b. 20, f. 243	Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions	1993 Aug
b. 20, f. 244	Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions: program	1993 Aug
b. 20, f. 245	Consultation on Ethical Relations with Other Creatures	1993 Nov
b. 20, f. 246	Earth Stewardship 1994	1994 Feb
b. 20, f. 247	Earth Stewardship 1995	1995 Jan
b. 20, f. 248	Ethics, Economics, and Endangered Species	1995 Oct
b. 20, f. 249	Renewing the Human Spirit (sponsored by Wisdom Ways)	1996 Jul
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b. 21, f. 251	God's Earth: Our Home	1997 May
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b. 21, f. 256	Making a Difference in Minnesota (sponsored by The Biodiversity Project)	2001 Mar
b. 21, f. 257	Earth Charter Community Summit 2001	2001 Sep
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C	Other documents associated with individuals	1989-1997
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Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Environmentalism -- Religious aspects

Corporate Body

North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology